

# *News Release*

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## **Charleston Jury Finds Habitual Traffic Offender Guilty**

**Charleston, S.C.** –Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the defendant, Jerry Lewis Gardner, Jr., was convicted last week by a Charleston County jury of receiving stolen goods, failure to stop for a blue light, and habitual traffic offender. Circuit Court Judge Alison Lee sentenced the Defendant to 7 years on the receiving stolen goods, 5 years on the Failure to Stop for a Blue Light, and 5 years on the habitual traffic offender charge, to run concurrently.

The case was investigated by the North Charleston Police Department, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, and the Charleston Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitors Charles M. Condon, Jr., and Scott Maynor of the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office.

On December 18, 2014, North Charleston Police Department officers were GPS tracking a stolen i-pad from a breaking and entering of a motor vehicle which led to the Defendant's vehicle. Officers initiated a traffic stop on the Defendant Jerry Gardner, Jr., which led to a high speed chase that was taken over by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office when Gardner entered their jurisdiction. The chase lasted almost 20 minutes and covered about 10 miles until it ended at Locksley Drive in West Ashley where the Defendant and an unknown passenger bailed out of the moving vehicle. The Defendant fled through a footpath into the St. Andrew Garden Apartments. Charleston Police Department Officers stopped the Defendant as he was attempting to leave the complex with his dad who had picked him up. Charleston County deputies were able to identify the Defendant as the driver. North Charleston Police Department crime scene collected key fingerprints from two cups in the center console of the vehicle which matched to the Defendant. Condon stated that "he is thankful for the top notch efforts of the North Charleston Police Department, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, and Charleston Police Department in working together to apprehend this habitual offender."

The Defendant Jerry Gardner, Jr., has previous convictions for two counts of failure to stop for a blue light, six counts of receiving stolen goods, habitual traffic offender, nine counts of driving under suspension, false information to police, burglary, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, and breaking and entering a motor vehicle. He was on probation at the time these crimes were committed.